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# ENJOY A GREAT AND SAFE SUMMER VACATION

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Bernardino

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## HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

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### CITIZENSHIP DAY IN SAN BERNARDINO A GREAT SUCCESS



Congressman Joe Baca, center, addresses a large audience at the press conference at the Citizenship Day Workshop at the National Orange Show. Other speakers at the press conference, (l to r) San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, co-sponsor of the event, Assemblyman Joe Baca, Jr., and Fifth District Supervisor Josie Gonzales. Photo by IEHN

"I am very happy to be here today and start getting my citizen papers," Floriberto Soriano, said in Spanish. "The people here have helped me very much to get all these many papers filled out and I would not be able to do by myself," he said with a board smile.

On Saturday, July 1, Soriano and over 375 legal residents from throughout the region were aided at the Citizenship Day Workshop, at the National Orange Show, an event sponsored by Congresspersons Joe Baca (D-Rialto) and Grace Flores Napolitano (D-Santa Fe Springs).

The local event was part of a coordinated effort by leaders of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus that held similar workshops throughout the country to provide assistance to legal residents to take preliminary steps in the process toward naturalized citizenship.

In a press conference, San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris welcomed the participants to the City of San Bernardino, and extended his congratulations on their efforts toward citizenship.

Congressman Baca stated, "Today, we are part of a special event taking place throughout our nation. We are joined with the Congressional

Hispanic Caucus members, immigrant and civil rights groups, and many volunteers in 38 major locations in 13 states coming together to make today a successful National Citizens Day."

Baca said legal immigrants are law-biding and hard working members of every community, and historically have helped build this country to what it is today. "This is the land of opportunity for many of us and these people (legal immigrants) want to become part of our great traditions. They will also share the rights and responsibilities of every citizen," he said.

Congresswoman Napolitano, chair of the CHC, emphasized the importance of helping legal immigrants obtain their citizenship. "Citizenship allows them to get involved in the political process and enables them to vote based on their political philosophy. We are here to help toward that process."

Baca stated that while Congress has been debating on an immigration policy in recent months, the INS has seen a 20% increase in citizenship applications, and in May alone, 140,000 applications were downloaded.

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### WHEN LIFE AND ART MERGE

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS, HOW HIS NEW FILM *WALKOUT* INSPIRED A COMMUNITY

THE AIRING OF HIS LATEST FILM, *WALKOUT*, ON HBO, IS INSPIRING UNITY AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM NATIONWIDE.

By Lewis Beale



Edward James Olmos' *Walkout*, an HBO film chronicling the 1968 protest by Chicano students against injustices in the Los Angeles public school system, is art. Hundreds of thousands of people joining in a present-day walkout is life. Nearly four decades after the walkout that inspired the film, and just days after the film aired in March, half a million protesters rallied in Los Angeles—with thousands more gathering in cities across the country—against proposed immigration legislation.

The Olmos film led Juan Mendoza, a school cafeteria manager in East L.A., to the streets in March. Having grown up in Mexico, Mendoza, 42, knew nothing about the 1968 walkout until he became an extra in the film. Then he learned quickly. "The students started with a little gathering in the schools, and then they took the initiative to make a difference. They said, 'Here we are, we need to get more respect,'" Mendoza says. "I was inspired by those people. They could make a difference. If they could do it, we could do it."

*Walkout* is typical of an Olmos Project: whatever he signs onto has

to be about something. Known for his social conscience and lifelong political activism, Olmos directed this film, he says, because it unifies and empowers: "Unity is the factor—unity in one common goal makes your voice heard. It empowers the disenfranchised. They can band together in a common goal. You felt the strength of numbers in March, when so many people marched."

Even when the 59-year-old actor agreed to star in Sci Fi Channel's *Battlestar Gallactica*, it had to be about something. The contemporary political parallels in the noir-ish show—in which humanity fights for its life against a race of human-made robots—drew him. He made sure the series, which debuted in 2003, featured no bumpy-headed aliens, no storylines about galactic empires.

"It's based on how the country and the planet were after 9/11. How does the technology that we've created come back to haunt us and destroy us?" he says of the show, which won a 2005 Peabody Award.

*Galactica* and *Walkout* are just the latest in a series of activist film and television projects—El Pachuco in *Zoot Suit*, dedicated math teacher in *Stand and Deliver*, father in the PBS series *American Family*—that have come to define Olmos' career. And they all spring from a background steeped in Latino pride and community good works.

He traces this back to his maternal great-grandfather, Enrique Flores Magón, an activist and journalist who was one of the principal propagandists of the Mexican Revolution. Olmos inherited his sense of fighting for justice from his father, a postal clerk, and his mother, a hospital worker.

Continue on page 3



## S. B. COUNTY AWARDED FUNDS TO EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SAN BERNARDINO - With the State's approval, San Bernardino County will begin implementing a multi-million dollar plan to provide additional mental health services, as well as expanding on existing services to thousands of county residents.

Department of Behavioral Health Director Allan Rawland announced the formal approval of the county's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Supports and Services plan during the June 27 San Bernardino County Board of Supervisor's meeting.

For the next three years the county will receive over \$50 million for programs and services to assist the underserved and underserved populations, including those who are frequent users of expensive inpatient services, and individuals who are exiting from the foster care system, juvenile hall and the county jail programs. Programs have been earmarked to address specific mental health needs of children and youth, transitional age youth (between 18 and 25), adults and older adults, who are isolated and need mobile outreach services to receive care.

In the letter of approval, Stephen W. Mayberg, director for the Califor-

nia Department of Mental Health, commended the county on the diversity of services contained in its plan that are designed "to address the unique needs of various age groups."

"You have taken the vision of hope contained within the Mental Health Services Act and translated it into services for persons with the most serious needs," wrote Mayberg.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, who also chairs the county's Mental Health Commission, also praised staff for the way they came together to develop an effective plan for the county. "It was a true collaboration that must continue as we work even more aggressively to fill the necessary positions and provide the housing and services that are greatly needed in our communities," said Gonzales.

Under the county Mental Health Services Act programs and services will be provided for approximately 6,500 new clients who have not accessed traditional mental health services.

"Most importantly, the funds will allow more creativity, innovation and flexibility in planning and implementing mental health programs that meet the needs of our county's ethnically and culturally diverse populations," said Rawland.

"I believe that one of the greatest aspects of the Mental Health Services Act is the ability to place consumers in some type of shelter or independent living situation once they are released from jail or the hospital," said Chris Massa, a member of the county Mental Health Commission and the TEAM House. "Many times these consumers will come to the TEAM House after hours looking for placement, but the homeless program staff has already left for the day."

"Speaking from the consumer standpoint," added Massa, "MHSA will be a great opportunity for consumers to go to work under the act. I believe once the consumer has a steady income source and his/her living conditions are stable they will be able to provide peer counseling support to others."

For more information, contact Allan Rawland, Director, and Behavioral Health (909) 421-9340

## CHANGING THE FACE OF EARLY EDUCATION

Tomás Rivera Policy Institute national poll of Latinos reveals strong support for Pre-K Survey is the first study focused exclusively on Latinos' early education views

(Washington, D.C.) - Latino families show strong support for increased access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, according to a national poll conducted by the TRPI and released by Pre-K Now.

Latinos are changing the face of early education in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau racial or ethnic minorities make up nearly half of the nation's children who are five or younger. **Much of this increase is fueled by the rapid growth among the Latino population** (editor's emphasis). In order for education reform initiatives to be truly effective, states must consider the effects on, and the role of, this burgeoning population.

"Latino families not only believe pre-k is important but they also think elected officials should make pre-k a priority before taking on new responsibilities in K-12," said Danielle Gonzales, Deputy State Program Director for Pre-K Now. "Despite their high-levels of support for pre-k, Latinos participate at lower rates because they face major obstacles to enrollment such as affordability, language barriers and a general lack of awareness of the existence of such programs. These issues must be addressed."

The public opinion survey focuses on Latino families' knowledge, preferences and support for public pre-k programs. Completed between March 1, 2006, and March 12, 2006, the poll showed that 96% of Latinos believe it is important for children to attend a pre-k program before kindergarten. The random telephone survey sampled 1,000 mostly working-class respondents in 10 states (California, Texas, Illinois, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Arkansas, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee) among Mexican, Cuban, Dominican, Central American, and Puerto Rican respondents. The areas represent both traditional and non-traditional Latino-populated states. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English.

Some additional highlights:

- An overwhelming majority (95%) of Latinos believe that children who attend pre-k have strong educational advantages over those who do not attend;
- 78% of respondents would be more likely to support a candidate running for city, state or county office if they proposed making early education voluntarily available to all families who wanted it; and
- 73% of Latinos would pay more taxes to expand public pre-k programs if they served more children.

While Latinos have a strong belief in the importance of 4-year-olds spending time in learning environments outside the home, nationally only about 40% of Latino children are enrolled in pre-k, compared to 59% of Caucasian children and 64% of African-American children. For many years, it was believed that this discrepancy was due to a desire to have children stay at home with family members. However, the polling shows that Latinos experience a lack of awareness of where to get information about pre-k and an inability to afford the high cost of many private pre-k programs.

"When it comes to raising Hispanic educational achievement, Latinos understand the urgency and importance of pre-k," Gonzales said. "In order to lower the barriers to Latino participation in state pre-k and Head Start programs elected officials must move away from targeted programs to a pre-k-for-all model. This poll shows overwhelming support among Latinos for this approach."

### About TRPI

Founded in 1985, the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute advances critical, insightful thinking on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective, policy-relevant research and its implications, for the betterment of the nation. TRPI is an affiliated research unit of the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and is associated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University. To learn more about the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, visit the Institute's website at <http://www.trpi.org>.

### About Pre-K Now

Pre-K Now is a national early education advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. which works with states to expand pre-k access.

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## GRANDPARENTS/STEP GRANDPARENTS/RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

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• come first serve basis while supplies last.  
Dept. of Aging and Adult Services-Family Caregivers Support Program.



## WHEN LIFE AND ART MERGE

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS, HOW HIS NEW FILM *WALKOUT* INSPIRED A COMMUNITY  
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Continued from page 1

By Lewis Beale

"They were both activists, trying to bring about an understanding of the Latino struggle in the United States and make sure the community was understood," he says.

Olmos took this sense of community and expanded it to encompass the world, from Miami's Children's Hospital to UCLA's School of Film, Theater, and Television to UNICEF. He has made an even bigger mark as an activist for Latino Culture. Olmos founded the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival, now in its tenth year, because "film is the strongest medium in the world, and we were not seeing those images that dealt with our culture," he says. The same impulse led him to create the Latino Book & Family Festival, a traveling smorgasbord of events co-produced by Latino Literacy Now. And *Americanos*, organized with the Smithsonian institution, was a traveling exhibition that looked at Latino culture through photography, film, music, and print.

"The *Americanos* project is critical," says Lea Ybarra, executive director of the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University and the actor's longtime friend. "When you look at the *Americanos*

book, you see the reality of undocumented workers crossing the river, and he feels that's as much our reality as the scientists and musicians in the book."

Olmos has received more awards and honorary degrees (from Whittier College and National Hispanic University, for instance), sat on more national boards (National Council on Adoption and Children's Action Network, to name a few), and served as an official spokesperson for more organizations (such as the Southwest Voter Registration Project and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation) than seems humanly possible.

An all-work-and-no-play-makes-Edward-a-dull-boy scenario? No way. Olmos acknowledges that the stern patriarchs and hard-nosed gang bangers he's played might leave the impression he's humor challenged, but in reality, he says, "I laugh a lot."

No kidding. David Elick, Galactic's executive producer, says Olmos is the big jokester on the set: "He's got the foulest mouth, and everyone loves him for it. You expect this stoic, heavy type, and he completely disarms you."

He's also humble and self-effacing, Ybarra says, the kind of guy who

respects his fans. "He will take the time to make everyone feel like he's giving them his attention," she says.

Olmos and his third wife, 28-year old actress Lyman Nadal, have been married since 2001. He has four sons, two of them adopted. Brandon, 33, Michael, 35, and Bodie, 30, work in their father's production company. Mico, 34, is a Zen Buddhist monk who, Olmos says proudly, takes care of the kids while his wife works as an immigration lawyer.

Olmos takes none of this—his family, fans, successes—for granted. His life lesson, he says, is "to be humble, be grateful when you wake up and humble when you go to sleep."

Besides, his work isn't done. There are meetings to attend, funds to be raised, voices to be heard. But the one

thing Olmos would most like to accomplish is this: "help the Hispanic community learn to grow in unity."

"We have to learn to live together," he explains. "Right now we have a problem: there are different cultures and we don't often relate to one another. We have to learn so it will be easier for non-Latino cultures to relate to us more."

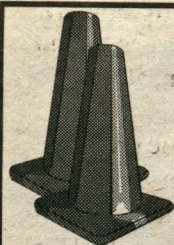
His faith lies in today's youth. "High school students are the most delicate structure of the human chain they're old enough to understand, but not to be taken seriously. But if they unite, then the voice becomes very strong, and it's the strongest voice we have. When you empower the youth you're empowering the future leaders of the world."

Thanks to AARP for above article

## QUALITY OF LIFE FAIR

Supervisor Gary Ovitts invites the public to attend the Quality of Life Fair, De Anza Center, De Anza Park, 1405 So. Fern Street, Ontario, July 15, 10 am to 3 pm, free, all ages. Organizations attending: (partial list): First 5, San Bernardino County's Public Health, Aging and Adult Services,

Economic Development Agency; Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), Neighborhood Partnership, Ontario Montclair YMCA, Alzheimer's Association, and many other agencies and organization. For information contact Gabriel Chavez at (909) 910-0557.

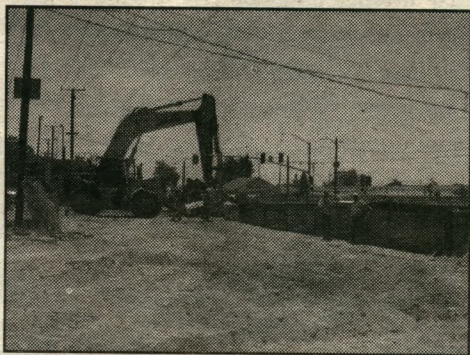


## ROUTE 210 ROUNDUP

### State Street will remain closed north of Highland

State Street in San Bernardino will remain closed north of Highland Avenue through late 2006. Crews are making storm drain improvements, including the widening and realignment of State Street near Highland. Highland Avenue businesses will remain open throughout the construction period.

Please continue to visit these businesses, drive safely through the area and watch for pedestrians.



For more information, call the Route 210 Helpline: 1-866-HELP-210 ¡Se habla español!



## INFORMACIÓN RUTA 210

### La Calle State permanecerá cerrada al norte de la Avenida Highland.

La Calle State, al norte de la Avenida Highland en San Bernardino, permanecerá cerrada hasta finales del 2006. Los trabajadores están haciendo mejoras a las alcantarillas de tormentas, incluyendo la ampliación y la realineación de la calle State, cerca de la Avenida Highland. Los negocios localizados en la Avenida Highland permanecerán abiertos durante la construcción.



Continúe visitando estos negocios, conduzca con seguridad dentro del área de construcción y por favor tenga cuidado con los peatones.



Para más información, llame a la línea de asistencia de la ruta estatal 210: 1-866-HELP-210



## ARMC RECEIVES NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES AWARDS

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) was honored recently as the winner of two 2006 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. NACo selected ARMC's McKee Family Health Center's Patient Visit Redesign program and the Medical Center's Extension of Outpatient Pharmacy Services to County Correctional Facilities Patients program as award recipients.

The Patient Visit Redesign program began in May 2005 and was recognized for the marked improvements it has made to the patient visit process, staff teamwork and overall efficiency in the Family Health Center. The redesign process has helped to reduce average wait times by more than 40 minutes and improve provider efficiency - the average number of patients a physician sees in an hour - from 2.96 to 4.80.

The McKee Family Health Center is located in San Bernardino and is one of three primary-care centers in San Bernardino County that are owned and operated by ARMC. The Medical Center has two Family Health Centers in San Bernardino and

one in Fontana.

The Extension of Outpatient Pharmacy Services to County Correctional Facilities Patients program was awarded for its collaborative effort between ARMC and the San Bernardino County Department of Sheriff in improving the medication distribution system and reducing costs for inmate medications.

The program began in March 2005 and was expanded to the entire jail system on June 1, 2005. The net cost savings during the first six months of full operation exceeded \$800,000. Cost savings were realized primarily by purchasing medications at a lower cost based on ARMC's purchasing program.

Recognition from NACo is given to counties for creative and innovative program development and implementation, efficient administrative management of county agencies and responsible government to local citizens.

For further information call Renee Cameron, media specialist at (909) 580-6317.

## SANBAG TO CONTRACT FOR TOW SERVICE ON I-10/I-15

SANBAG has received state funds and contributed Measure I half-cent sales for funds to contract with Armada Towing of San Bernardino and Pepe's Towing of Colton for towing services. Tow operators travel I-10 and I-15 during peak morning and afternoon commute hours to fix flat tires, jump-start dead batteries, refill radiators or make other minor mechanical repairs, all free of charge. If the op-

erator cannot fix the problem at roadside, vehicles will be towed to locations adjacent to the freeway that are designated by the CHP, at no cost to the drivers.

Since the program began six months ago, the existence for its services has been exceedingly successful. More than 9,000 offers of aid have been given to local motorists. This aid has included fixing 1,500 flat tires, aiding with 600 freeway accidents and cooling down 500 overheated engines.

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee made available \$3.95 million for FSP projects in San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange Counties last month, and SANBAG secured \$804,240 to expand its program. SANBAG will contribute \$268,080 in state funding to expand the services to sections of Route 60 and Interstate 215 by early next year. These funds will cover three years of service.

The new service will be implemented on Route 60 from San Bernardino County/Los Angeles line in Chino to Milliken Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga, a distance of approximately 10 miles. Service also will be added to Interstate 215 from San Bernardino County/Riverside County line in Grand Terrace to 2nd Street in San Bernardino, approximately seven miles.

## FIRST COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY FAIR BE HELD IN MUSCOY

*The first 200 children to attend will receive a free bicycle helmet*

Muscoy - The County of San Bernardino and community organizations will promote family wellness and fun at the first-ever health and safety fair in Muscoy on Saturday, July 15.

Muscoy residents are invited to drop by the Inland Empire Job Corps Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to learn how to improve their health and make their families and community safer.

Inland Empire Health Plan will hand out free bicycle helmets to the first 200 children. The fair will also include several free bicycle, drawings, free food, and entertainment.

"Not everyone knows where to look for the help available to them," said 5th District County Supervisor Josie Gonzales. "That is why it is so important to hold community fairs like this. We bring the organizations with resources to our residents at one time. I encourage Muscoy parents to bring their children to the fair."

Gonzales and San Bernardino County Code Enforcement are sponsoring the fair in partnership with the Job Corps Center and the Muscoy

Municipal Advisory Council.

Health and safety information will be available from many county departments and community organizations, including: \* Arrowhead Regional Medical Center \* County Public Health \* County Behavioral Health \* County Fire \* County Sheriff \* County Code Enforcement

First 5 San Bernardino will offer preschool cooking demonstrations, free snacks containers, recipe books and other fun parent-child activities. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway will promote safety at railroad crossings.

The fair will also feature free fun activities and entertainment for all ages, such as music, jumpers, and a balloon clown. The Job Corps will give out free hot dogs to everyone.

The Job Corps Center is located at 3173 Kerry Street (one block west of the intersection of Blake and State streets) in Muscoy. Enter the fair through the Blake Street gate. For more information, call at (909) 387-5031.

## ASSEMBLY BACA, JR. ASSIST SENIOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS OBTAIN REBATES Assemblyman Baca, Jr. helps fill out Homeowners and Renters Claim Booklets

San Bernardino, CA—Assemblyman Joe Baca, Jr. (D-Rialto) is providing assistance to help senior citizens with limited incomes collect a rebate on their property taxes. His staff is trained to help fill out the forms.

"The Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program is a great opportunity for senior citizens with limited incomes to get assistance from the State and take advantage of this worthwhile program," said Assemblyman Baca. "My staff is ready to provide assistance in filling out these forms."

Those applying for the property tax rebate must be 62 years of age or older, be blind, or be disabled AND must have a total household income of \$40,811 or less. Those applying must show proof of income. A copy of your California Drivers License is required if it is your first time applying to the assistance program.

For more information on upcoming workshops, to get a copy of the application, or to receive assistance on filling out the forms, contact the Office of Assemblyman Joe Baca, Jr. at (909) 388-1413.

## Look & Feel Better

Drink plenty of water even if you are not thirsty. Eight glasses a day is ideal.



A message from California Department of Health Services funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Department of Public Health Nutrition Program Human Services System County of San Bernardino Project LEAN and the Nutrition Network Grant #99-85867

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## TIPS TO SAVE GAS—AND MONEY

(NAPS)—Motorists may not need to put the brakes on their lifestyles to save at the pump. Try these simple fuel-saving tips instead.

- **Keep the tires of your vehicle properly inflated.** The U.S. Department of Energy reports that underinflated tires increase fuel consumption by up to 6 percent and one study estimates that 50 to 80 percent of all tires on the road are underinflated. By these estimates, the U.S. could save up to 2 billion gallons of gas each year simply by properly inflating tires.

- **Regularly replace your air filter.** A clogged air filter can increase fuel consumption by as much as 10 percent. An added bonus: Air filters keep impurities from damaging the interior of the engine. Replacing them won't just save you gas. It could save your engine too.

- **Upgrade your motor oil.** According to multiple independent university tests, Royal Purple motor oil improves fuel economy by as much as 5 percent and produces notable horsepower and torque improvements. That means motorists could save gas without giving up performance.

- **Follow the maintenance recom-**

**mendations in your vehicle's owner's manual.** An out-of-tune engine can increase fuel consumption by as much as 15 percent. Always follow your car manufacturer's suggested tune-up schedule.

- **Lighten your load. Don't carry extra weight in your vehicle.** Doing so burns extra gas and could cost you money. Only carry sandbags, tools and other heavy items when you think you'll be needing them. Also, don't forget that carrying lots of small, light items can be the same as carrying one heavy item. Be sure to clean your trunk and backseat out regularly.

- For more information, visit [www.royalpurple.com](http://www.royalpurple.com).

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(909) 889-2799 o  
(909) 888-1800.

CITIZENSHIP DAY IN SAN BERNARDINO  
A GREAT SUCCESS

Continued from page 1

According to the Department of Homeland Security, eight million individuals are currently eligible for citizenship. In California, there are almost one million young people who will be eligible to become voters in 2008.

Persons are eligible for citizenship if their father or mother became U.S. citizens before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; if persons: have permanent resident for five years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen), have lived continually in U.S., have knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government, have the ability to write, read and speak English, and have a good moral character.

As eligible applicants arrived at the reception area at the Orange Show's Citrus building, each was expeditiously referred to one of 12 receiving desks. Clerks meticulously helped the applicants fill the required forms to ensure that information was accurate; otherwise, future processing at higher government levels would delay the citizenship process. Photo, copying, and mailing, and other services were provided free of charge. Many of the applicants expressed satisfaction with

the overall process as they left the site.

Congressman Baca's staff members Rosie Juarez organized the local Citizens Day event, and co-organized by Joe Rodriguez, and including 150 volunteers representing county groups: Catholic Diocese, Catholic Charities, CCAEJ, Home of Neighborly Services, Holy Name of Jesus Parish (formerly Sacred Heart parish), Latin Business District, Libreria Del Pueblo, Los Dorados del Valle, NALEO, National Orange Show, Ontario Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Leadership Alliance, R & R Professionals, Rojas INC. (OHCC), San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Supervisor Jose Gonzales, Southwest Voter Registration, ICHR, TODEC Legal Center, Holy Name Parish, S. B. Community Service Center, and many others.

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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS



## LATINAS IN THE UNITED STATES: A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA (April 2006) Edited by Vicki L. Ruiz and Virginia Sánchez Korrol



**Latinas in the United States: a Historical Encyclopedia** records the contribution of women of Latin American birth or heritage to the economic and cultural development of the United States. The encyclopedia, edited by Vicki L. Ruiz and Virginia Sánchez Korrol, is the first comprehensive gathering of scholarship on Latinas. This encyclopedia will serve as an essential reference for decades to come.

Latinas during and after EuroAmerican Colonization and conquest; the early-19<sup>th</sup>-century migration of Puerto Ricans and Cubans; 20<sup>th</sup>-century issues of migration, cultural

tradition, labor, gender roles, community organization, and politics. Individual biographical entries profile women who have left their mark on the historical and cultural landscape.

With more than 300 photographs, the three-volume **Latinas in the United States** offers a mosaic of historical experiences, detailing how Latinas have shaped their own lives, cultures, and communities through mutual assistance and collective action, while confronting the pressures of colonialism, racism, discrimination, sexism, and poverty.

**Latinas in the United States** is essentially a working-class history of Latinas who helped build America during three centuries. It also represents an intellectual history of women who witnessed, defied, negotiated, and chronicled the forces that shaped Spanish American colonization and the present contours of this nation.

"This encyclopedia focuses on how Latinas have shaped their own lives, cultures, and communities through mutual assistance and collective action and how our understanding of pivotal events, such as the U.S.-Mexican War, the Great Depression, and World War II, becomes transformed when they are viewed through women's eyes," write editors Ruiz and Sánchez Korrol in the preface.

Contrary to popular media images that portray Latinas as recent immigrants, the encyclopedia underscores that their legacies actually stretch back hundreds of years to the founding of St. Augustine in 1565. Indeed, the Spanish outpost was not just the realm of conquistadors and missionaries but also a vibrant melting pot of women colonists and their families from diverse backgrounds, including Catalan immigrants, freed slaves, and Christianized Indians.

The encyclopedia is enriched with profiles of contemporary Latinas, such as Salvadoran immigrant and restaurant owner Mirna Burciaga, who successfully challenged discrimination by a southern California school district. "I have an accent when I talk," she told a newspaper reporter. "But that doesn't mean I have an accent when I think."

Written to engage both general and scholarly readers, **Latinas in the United States: a Historical Encyclopedia** documents the U. S. experiences of Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central American, and South American women in a way never before accomplished. The encyclopedia is an important window as well for anyone seeking to understand the largest U.S. minority group, which includes al-

most 50 percent of the nation's foreign-born residents.

### About the Editors

**Vicki L. Ruiz** is professor of History and Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California, Irvine. Her many publications include *From out of the Shadows and Cannery Women, Cannery Lives*. She and Virginia Sánchez Korrol were honored with a "21 Leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" award by Women's eNews. Ruiz is president of the organization of American Historians.

**Virginia Sánchez Korrol** is a historian and Professor in the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York. Among her many publications, she is co-editor with Vicki L. Ruiz of *Latina Legacies: Identity, Biography and Community*; co-author of *Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (IUP, 1999); and author of *From Colonia to Community*.

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## BRACERO PROGRAM EXPLORED IN SMITHSONIAN, BROWN UNIVERSITY, AND UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, EL PASO PROJECT

Brown University and University of Texas, El Paso has joined with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and a consortium of museums, universities and cultural institutions to create the Bracero History Project. The project seeks to preserve and collect the history of the 1942-1964 guest worker program.

The Bracero Program has played a major influence in agriculture and immigration, including in the Coachella-Palo Verde-Imperial Valleys but has gone relatively unnoticed in American history.

As a first step in establishing the project, the Brown University and University of Texas, El Paso and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History co-hosted a town hall meeting and collection day on May 18-26, 2006 to look at the legacy and history of the 1942-1964 Bracero guest worker program.

In 1942, the United States entered into a series of agreements with Mexico to organize the Bracero Program in order to overcome the labor shortage caused by World War II. The program enabled Mexican citizen to come to the

United States for temporary labor contracts predominantly for work in the agriculture industry.

During the 22-year period of the guest worker program, millions of Mexicans came to the United States to work. These men were often referred to as "Braceros," a term derived from the Spanish word "brazo," or arm, idiomatically referring to a farmhand or labor for hire. The Bracero Program became the largest and most significant contract labor, guest worker program of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the United States. While Bracero workers were supposed to return to Mexico at the end of their labor contracts, not all returned. Others eventually emigrated to the United States, helped by the experience and knowledge they gained in the Bracero Program.

"The Bracero Program not only shaped the agricultural economy and industrial technology, but also made a significant impact on American and Mexican immigration," said Brent D. Glass, director of the National Museum of American History. "This project will capture the history of the Bracero Program in order to recognize and educate

the public about their contribution."

During the town hall meetings, there also will be opportunities for people to tell their stories which will be recorded and preserved in the Bracero History Project archives. The project also is seeking the donation of objects, including period hand tools such as short-handled hoe and grape shears; clothing; photographs and documents, such as contracts, identification cards, letters and remittances.

Initial funding for the project was provided by Smithsonian's Center for

Latino Initiatives and the National museum of American History.

The National Museum of American History traces American heritage through exhibitions of social, cultural, scientific and technological history. Collections are displayed in exhibitions that interpret the American experience from Colonial times to the present. For more information visit the museum's Web site at <http://americanhistory.si.edu> or call (202)633-1000 or 357-1729 (TTY).

## JACOBS ENGINEERING TO AID WITH I-215 CONTRUCTION

SANBAG Board approved a four-year, \$3.3 million contract for construction management services with Jacobs Engineering for the Interstate 215 5<sup>th</sup> Street bridge project in San Bernardino.

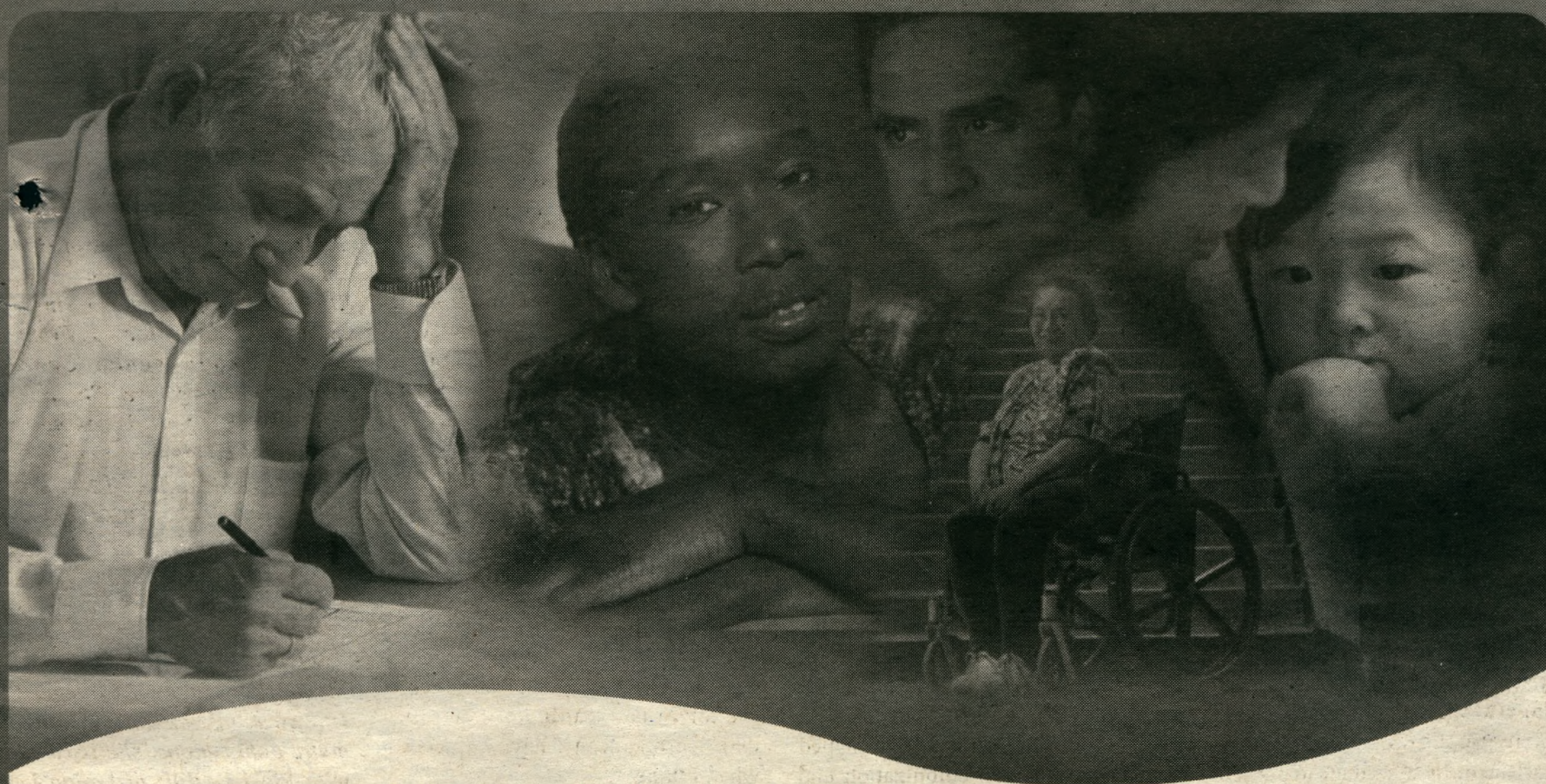
Jacobs will team with HDR and Vali Cooper for the contract, which begins this month and will end in early 2010. The Riverside-based firm was selected from five firms that submitted proposals.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge is an early project in the widening of Interstate 215 north of

Interstate 10. Crews will leave the existing bridge in place while building the north half of the new, wider bridge. They then will demolish the old bridge, and then build the new south half.

The wider bridge requires regrading and elevating the existing street and elevating the intersections with H Street and J Street. Freeway lane closures and ramp closures, weekend closures and a six-month closure of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street northbound onramp will be required.





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